

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11 remain in the application. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled, and Claim 12 has been withdrawn. Only Claim 1 is in independent form.

The Examiner has declared that Applicant's response of November 28, 2007 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because Applicant's arguments failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.111(b). The undersigned representative of the Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for allowing an opportunity to supply the omission or correction to avoid abandonment.

With regard to Claim 1, amendments were introduced in the November 28, 2007 Response that were intended to define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Specifically, neither of the cited references (Graham and Herbenar) disclose an axial lubrication port as now positively claimed in Claim 1. In combination therewith, neither Graham nor Herbenar teach or suggest the formation of a lubrication slot on the inner bearing surface of a metal lower bearing that is aligned with the axial lubrication port. And, while each of Graham and Herbenar appear to show a flat spot on the head end portion of the moveable member, neither is configured so as to cooperate (in direct facing opposition) to a lubrication slot in a metal lower bearing. These features, in combination with the other claimed elements set forth in Claim 1, provide an all metal type bearing structure that is novel and not obviated by the prior art.

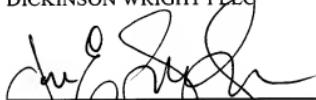
The remaining dependent Claims 3-11 all depend directly from Claim 1, which is believed to be presented here in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is likewise believed that dependent Claims 3-11 are also now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or refund any excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC


Jon E. Shaefferford, Registration No. 36,003
38525 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2970
734-623-1734

3-18-2008
Date

Certificate of Mailing/Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via electronic submission on the USPTO website.
Commissioner for Patents
PO BOX 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

on 03-18-08


Kelly Makin